REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 are rejected. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are amended hereby, and claims 2 and 6 are canceled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,131,860 (Bogiel), Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9, and submit that claims 1-11 are now in condition for allowance..

Bogiel '860 discloses a modular wall panel 10 (Fig. 1) which includes power distribution subassembly 30 (Fig. 2), with receptacles 24 and circuit control modules 26 (column 3, lines 42-44). Power distribution subassembly 30 includes a generally U-shaped channel, generally designated 32, along with a cover 34 and an end mounting bracket 36 (column 3, lines 45-47). Power distribution subassembly 30 includes a pair of end connectors, generally designated 52, mounted within the ends of U-shaped channel 32 by way of flanges 54 projecting outwardly from the end connectors into slots 56 in the sides of the channel (column 4, lines 1-6). A plurality of "power" lines 58 run between and are appropriately interconnected between contacts within end connectors 52 (column 4, lines 6-8).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

> a pair of parallel side plates connected to and extending transverse from said base, each said side plate including a slot, said slots being generally aligned with each other, said slots being located approximately centrally in a longitudinal direction of said mounting bracket; an electrical distribution harness including at least one channel at least partially enclosed by said side plates, said electrical distribution harness including an electrical connector both received within and extending from said slots.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bogiel '860 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

In further contrast, claim 5, as amended, recites in part:

> a pair of parallel side plates connected to and extending transverse from said base, each said side plate including a slot, said slots being generally aligned with each other, said slots being located approximately centrally in a longitudinal direction of said mounting bracket; an electrical connector both received within and extending from said slots . . .

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bogiel '860 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

In further contrast, claim 9, as amended, recites in part:

> a pair of parallel side plates connected to and extending transverse from said base, each said side plate including a slot, said slots being generally aligned with each other, said slots being located approximately centrally in a longitudinal direction of said mounting bracket; and positioning an electrical connector of the electrical distribution harness at least partially between said side plates, said electrical connector both received within and extending from said slots.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bogiel '860 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Bogiel '860 disclose a modular wall panel which includes a power distribution subassembly, with receptacles and which also includes a generally U-shaped channel, where a pair of end connectors, are mounted within the ends of the U-shaped channel by way of flanges projecting outwardly from the end connectors into slots. Bogiel '860 fail to disclose or suggest a the slots being located approximately centrally in a longitudinal direction of the mounting bracket; and an electrical connector both received within and extending from the slots.

An advantage of the present invention is that an existing electrical distribution harness can be converted to a design with a separate mounting bracket.

Claims 4 and 8 are amended to maintain proper antecedent basis for the "electrical connector" element.

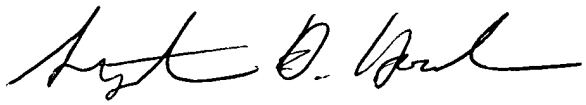
For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1, 5 and 9, and claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 depending respectively therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen D. Horchem
Registration No. 53,035

Agent for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: January 19, 2005.

Stephen D. Horchem, Reg. No. 53,035
Name of Registered Representative

Signature

January 19, 2005
Date

SDH/lp

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.
142 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 560
Avilla, IN 46710
Telephone: 260-897-3400
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

Enc.: Return postcard